

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### MEETING OF MARCH 20, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on March 20, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair with twenty members and twelve visitors present.

Dr. William Moore, American Cyanamid Sales Co., 535 Fifth Avenue, was elected a member.

A letter from an absent member, Harrison M. Tietz, was read.

Mr. Davis exhibited "Fundamenta Entomologiæ" by W. Curtis, 1772.

Mr. Sherman spoke of Dr. Melander's latest work 440 pages with eight plates as a sumptuous entomological publication.

Mr. Davis and Dr. Felt spoke of the severe illness of Dr. John Henry Comstock. The secretary was instructed to send him the sympathy of the Society.

Dr. J. L. Horsfall spoke on "Feeding Punctures of Aphids" explaining the methods of study and the manner in which the aphid reaches the plant cells rich in sugar phloem. The results of his studies will be printed in full.

Mr. Shoemaker exhibited his collection of *Basilarchia* butterflies including *arthemis*, and its form *proserpina*, *astyanax* and its form *albofasciata*, with numerous specimens in which the white band was more or less feebly indicated. The localities in which he had collected were Canadensis in the Pocono Mts., Pennsylvania and the Catskill Mts., New York. Mr. Shoemaker added that in his experience about ten per cent. of the specimens seen were white-banded.

His remarks were discussed by Messrs. Davis and Hall, who had collected *albofasciata* west of Sussex, New Jersey, and Angell, who had seen the white-banded forms at Cook's Falls, New York.

Mr. Frank Johnson exhibited *Ornithoptera* butterflies.

Mr. Mutchler exhibited Chinese beetles collected by Mr. H. H. Johnson.

Mr. Bird spoke of a *Papaipema* found on Chelone.

### MEETING OF APRIL 3, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on April 3, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair with twenty-one members and eight visitors present.

Mr. Davis read communications from Mr. Engelhardt reporting a visit at Tallulah, Louisiana, with Dr. Folsom and Mr. Glick; and from Mr. Barber reporting his visit to the Imperial Valley, California.

Mr. Angell called attention to a recent article in Pan Pacific Entomologist on *Dinapate wrighti*.

The secretary of the Society was presented with a watch inscribed "To Charles W. Leng, from the members of the New York Entomological Society, as a token of their appreciation of his long and faithful service to the Society. April, 1928."

Addresses were made by the President, by Mr. Davis and Mr. Sheridan as a committee, and by individual members of the Society including Mr. Sherman and Dr. Lutz, all of a complimentary character. The secretary, surprised and embarrassed, briefly expressed his thanks.

Mr. Schwarz read a paper "A Winter Trip to Brownsville, Texas" and exhibited the Hymenoptera and Coleoptera collected on the trip; as well as photographs illustrating January conditions. Two nests of the honey wasp *Nectarina lecheguana*, commonly called Mexican stingless bee, were obtained and it was discovered by experiment on Dr. Lutz that it was not stingless, and by chemical examination of the nest that honey had been stored by the wasp, although not present in quantity in January. That the sting, being barbed, remains in the wound was affirmed by Dr. Lutz in the discussion that followed.

In the discussion of the New York State List of Insects which closed the meeting Messrs. Olsen and Bromley offered some taxonomic corrections, which are appended, and several members spoke of its value in studying distribution.

Dr. Lutz pointed out that the maps are purely altitude maps, indicative therefore of distribution only in so far as it is controlled by that factor. He added also that a study in distribution should be based upon the average result of data for numerous species.

Mr. Notman commended the guarded statement regarding distribution contained in the preface to the Coleoptera; and pointed out that certain data brought out were hostile to theoretical faunal zones. As an instance he spoke of *Amerizus oblongulus* Mann, a species found in Alaska, Labrador, and associated in the Adirondack Mts. above 3500 ft. elevation with the genus *Trechus*. This apparently typical boreal beetle was nevertheless found also in a deep canon near Westfield and on the banks of the Racquette River in St. Lawrence County.

Mr. Leng pointed out the value of the adepagous beetles in studying distribution and careful work therein of Mr. Notman, whose collections for several years previous to the publication of the List had been specially directed towards obtaining data for determining the distribution of such within the state.

Mr. Davis, after citing comparative figures to show the austral character of the Orthoptera, made a humorous protest against attributing stupidity to them because of the lowly phylogenetic position they occupied in the List. He did not dispute that the Cockroach was regarded as one of the lowest of insects but argued that, in the education it had received since its first

appearance in the Carboniferous period, it had acquired an enviable mentality. We should be proud that the male Surinam Cockroach had been found in the Reptile House in Bronx Park and take into consideration in forming our estimate of Orthoptera the vast number of intelligent musicians it contributes to our fauna.

Mr. Bromley called attention to the Asilid list in the New York State List. A new record was found in Mr. Davis' collection, *Asilus lecythus* Walker from Staten Island. The synonymy of *Laphria acutus* with *L. index* was questioned. A comparison of *index* with the type of *acutus* in the British Museum disproved the synonymy.

#### MEETING OF APRIL 17, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on April 17, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair with eighteen members and seven visitors present.

Dr. Lutz spoke of the arrangements for the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in December.

Mr. A. L. Stillman, 134 East 6th St., Plainfield, N. J., was elected a member of the Society.

A letter from Mrs. Anna Botsford Comstock, thanking the Society for its sympathy in Dr. Comstock's illness, was read.

Mr. Leng called attention to an error on page 456 New York State List of Insects in the distribution cited for *Saperda shoemakeri* Ds. The locality "Slide Mt., July" is correct. The two Long Island localities which follow are incorrect belonging two lines above to *S. unicolor*.

Mr. M. E. Ryberg spoke, with blackboard illustrations, on "Biochemistry and Olfactory Response," giving the results of investigations carried on at the Boyce Thompson Institute.

Mr. Rivnay, under the title "Morphological and Taxonomic Notes on Parasitic Beetles" discussed the relation of the families Mordellidæ, Meloidæ, and Rhipiphoridæ in Coleoptera with the group treated by Pierce as an order under the name Strepsiptera. Blackboard illustrations, showing the general form of these insects and some of their characters, as antennæ, elytra, genitalia, etc., were used to support the argument that Strepsiptera are truly Coleoptera. Specimens of the beetles discussed were exhibited and it was pointed out that Rhipidius had been included in the catalogue on the basis of one specimen found on Shipboard at Panama.

Mr. Lemmer exhibited bred specimens of *Gonodontis pilosaria* from eggs obtained at Lakehurst, New Jersey, and raised on white birch.

#### MEETING OF MAY 1, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on May 1, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair with seventeen members and fourteen visitors present.

A letter from Dr. Walther Horn in reference to the arrival of about 25 entomologists about August 7 was read.

Dr. Lutz stated that there would be about as many from England and France arrive about August 7 and outlined his tentative plans for their entertainment, terminating in a meeting of the Society about August 10.

On motion the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for report at the next meeting.

Mr. V. I. Safro spoke on "Some Interesting Phases of the Japanese Beetle Problem," pointing out that, the peak of the appearance of adults being in normal years from July 4 to August 20, the part of the year before and after those dates was comparatively safe. He also showed that the traps used to attract and catch the adults attracted many more beetles to the trap location; and that the spraying of the trees killed only about thirty per cent. of the beetles. Spraying about June 25 so as to coat the foliage was successful in protecting the trees sprayed. He spoke also of the high cost of attacking the grubs in the soil and of the slow process of establishing control by parasites.

His remarks were discussed by Dr. Felt, Mr. Bird and Mr. Leonard.

Mr. Rivnay, supplementing his remarks at the preceding meeting, spoke of the paper by Mrs. Schrader on the fertilizing of female *Stylops*.

Mr. Angell, discussing the Lucanidae of the New State List of Insects, spoke of the taxonomy of *Platycerus depressus* and the distribution of *Nicagus obscurus*. In reference to the latter he mentioned the swarming of the males observed by Mr. Darlington at Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Dr. Curran spoke of the arrangement of certain families of Diptera as failing to reflect recent studies.

Dr. Felt spoke of the showing for the state made in the list of gall midges as highly gratifying.

Dr. Sturtevant spoke of the ants collected by Mr. Davis on Long Island and Staten Island which, compared with the records from other sections, showed how good a collector Mr. Davis was.

Mr. Rivnay said the record, on p. 336, of *Macrosiagon cruentatum* was based on an error in identification as determined by reexamination of the specimen.

The president spoke of the historical value of the List and of the gratitude due to volunteer workers who had produced it.

Mr. Davis speaking of the Orthoptera said that the *Ceuthophilus* records were the weak point owing to the difficulty of identification which, however, might disappear from the use made by Hubbell of the plates discovered by Walker.

Mr. Davis also exhibited the moth *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*, rare on Staten Island, but found on April 19, following a high wind. He also spoke of the seventeen-year locust as on the point of emerging.

## ERRATA

Volume XXXV, No. 4, Dec., 1927, page 423, lines 34-39 should read: "The damage done is of two kinds—that resulting directly

from sucking plant juices, and that resulting from the fact that certain species produce or serve as carriers of plant diseases. Two hoppers of the latter class were discussed in more detail; *Empoasca fabæ* which causes hopperburn of potatoes, and *Cicadula 6-notata*, carrier of aster yellows."

Volume XXXV, No. 4, Dec., 1927.

Page 391. For Genus "ETONEUS" read Genus "ETEONEUS."

Page 397. Line 6 from bottom, for "*globulifera*" read "*globuliferum*."

Page 398. Ten lines from top, for "*globulifera*" read "*globuliferum*."

Page 404. Line 14 from top and line 7 from bottom, for "*nasuta*" read "*nasutus*."

Page 406. Line 4, for the first "*obliqua*" read "*cicadooides*."

Page 408. For "Walkeria" read "Euwalkeria."